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IVLIVS · VITA
LIS · FABRICIES
IS · LEG · XX · V · V ·
~~STIPENDIOR~~
~~V M I X A N D R X X~~
IX · NATIONE · BE
LGA · EX · COLEGIO
FABRICE · ELATV
S · H · S · E

Tabulam hanc, quæ repreſentat
Julij Vitalis Epitaphium, ad
Bathoniam, A.D. MDCCIIX
effoſſum, Antiquitatis ſtudio
flagrantibus D. D. Q.
Richardus Muſgrave,
Hasilburienſis.

XXXIX. *An Account of a Book, entitled, [Julij Vitalis Epitaphium ; cum Notis Criticis Explicationeq; V. C. Hen. Dodwelli, et Commentario Guil. Musgrave.] Isæ Dunmoniorum.*
Sumtibus Philippi Yeo. MDCCXI.

IT is said of *Zeno*, that when He consulted the Oracle, as to what course of Life He were best to pursue, He received for Answer, *εἰ συγχωρίουτο τοῖς νεκτῖσι, σι ad mortuos se applicaret*; it being from Them, their Writings and other Remains, that the greatest part of Knowledge is derived to us; and what the Living furnish us with, is chiefly taken from the Monuments of the Dead.

Inscriptions are in this kind most valuable, as being for the generality *Originals of undoubted Veracity*; not subject to the Errors of Copying. The *Inscription* here publish'd, is of the greater value, for that it is the only one, as yet discover'd, any way relating to the *British Belge*.

You have, *Tab. VII.* the *Inscription*, with the Figure of *Tab. VII.* the Stone, as it was dug up near *Bath*, 1708. and is now to be seen, set up in a Wall at the East end of the Church, in the *Abby Green*.

I read it thus at length, according to our Modern way of writing Latin.

*Julius Vitalis, Fabricensis Legionis Vicefime Valeriane
Victoris, Stipendiorum novem, Annorum viginti novem,
Natione Belga, ex Collegio Fabricensium elatus, hic situs
est.*

The Learned Mr. *Dodwell*, after his *Critical Notes* on this Inscription, divides his *Explication* of it into Ten Sections, which have the following Titles.

S E C T. I. *Legionum singularum Fabricenses sub primis duntaxat Imperatoribus.*

II. *Alij Fabricenses hi a Fabricensibus Notitiarum, et Codicis utriusq; tam Theodosiani quam Justinianei.*

III. *Leges de Fabricensibus (etiam post Constantinum M.) non solum Officiorum Magistro, sed Comiti etiam Sacram Lægitionum, et Præfecto Prætorij inscribi solite, usq; ad A. D. 474.*

IV. *A Temporibus Constantini, et initio Diocletiani, Britannia sub Præfecto Gallicani Prætorij, qui proinde Fabricæ militaris Britanicæ Potestatem habebat.*

V. *Carausius et Allectus in Britannia Augusti Fabricæ Britanicæ prospiciebant per suorum Prætoriorum Præfectos, non Gallicanum. Inscriptio hæc senior Ptolemaeo, antiquior tamen Dionis Consulatu, A. D. 229.*

VI. *In ipsa Urbe Bathoniensi erat Fabricensium Legionis XX^a. Collegium.*

VII. *Legio II^a. Aug. nondum in agro Monumethensi, A. D. 211. cum excederet Sept. Severus. Eoq; proinde anno antiquior erat hæc, fortassis, Inscriptio.*

VIII. *Fieri potest, ut Fabricas duplices, tam Armorum quam Machinarum Bellicarum, complexum fuerit unicum eujus Inscriptiois Fabricæ Collegium.*

IX. Na-

IX. Nationis nomine Patria designatur Julij Vitalis, quæ in Belgarum territorio fuerit, non Gallicorum, sed Britannicorum.

X. Ad honorem Julij Vitalis faciunt, quæ de eo in hoc monumento dicuntur.

To this *Explication* of *Julius Vitalis* his *Epitaph*, the same learned Gentleman adds two other *Inscriptions*, one found not long since at *Pozzuoli*, the other at *Baiae*, with *Explications* of them.

After a Letter of Compliment, to Dr. *Nicholes*, late Warden of *Winchester College*, the Editor produces his *Commentary on Julius Vitalis his Epitaph*. They are both divided into Sections, in the following Order.

Sect. I. I V L I V S. V I T A L I S.

These Names are enquired into, and Instances given of many Persons having this Surname; and of those some of Quality, now living in *Italy*.

Sect. II. F A B R I C I E S I S.

It is here observed, that the *Romans*, for the sake of easy Pronunciation, used sometimes to interpose an *I*, and omit *N*. That they, being great Masters of the Art Military, had *duum generum Officinas Armorum*, *quarum hæ Legionariae, ille Opidane erant*. The former came at last to be call'd *Fabricæ*, as appears from *Hyginus*, allowing, in every Camp for three Regions, room for a *Fabrica*. (Vide *Antiq. Rom.* a Cl. *Grævio* edit. Vol. X.) From *Fabrica* comes *Fabricenses*, which is read in the *Theodosian Code*, in a Law made *Leontio & Sallustio Coss.* (A. D. 344.) And because the Author has not met with this Word earlier than this Year, He does not place *J. Vitalis* much above this time.

Sect. III:

Sect. III. L E G. XX.

The Author here delivers it as probable, That this was one of *Antony's* Legions, which amounted, without Interruption, to the Number XXV. inclusive. The *Insignia* for the first Cohort of this Legion, and two such as belong to the other Cohorts, are, from a Coyn of *Ur-sinus*, here represented in a Cut.

Under this head it is affirmed, That there were several *Vicesimæ Legiones*, but how many is uncertain. The several Names of this Legion, as they lye scatter'd up and down in Authors, are recited. A short History of it produc'd, particularly of its coming into *Britain* under *Plautius*, about the Year 43. That Invasion one of the most remarkable *Epochæ*, that ever concerned this Island. *Græcina*, Wife to *Plautius*, probably the first *Christian* in *Britain*. This Legion was in the last Battel with, and overthrow of *Boadicia*: Was under the Command of *Roscius Cælius*, and after that of *Agricola*: Had its chief Station at *Deva* (*Chester*,) which had its Increase, if not its Rise, from this Legion, about the Year 80. Near the River *Deva*, He thinks the *Cangi* were seated; and proves, That they were overcome by *Agricola* in the first Year of *Domitian's* Reign. This Legion in *Britain* in the Reign of *Adrian*. The *Vexillarii* of this Legion built part of that Wall, between *Dunbritton* and *Edenborough Friths*. *Ptolemy* and the *Itinerary of Antoninus* mention this Legion, as settled at *Deva*: (*Chester*.) It was there in the time of *Commodus*, and at *Crowdun-dale-waith*. It sided with *Carausius*, against *Maximinian* and *Diocletian*. The *Romans* did often place Coyns, under their Altars, and other Buildings. Of the XXth Legion, part had their Station at *Bath*; and was there about the middle of the 4th Century. This Legion continued in *Britain* about three hundred Years; consequently,

sequently, must be of great use in communicating to the *Britains*, the many Arts and Sciences, they learnt of the *Romans*.

Sect. IV. V. V.

Tho' Learned Men agree, That the latter *V* signifies *Victrix*, an Epithet common to this with several other Legions; there is among them much controversy, what it meant by the former *V*. some reading it *Valens*, others *Valeria*, others *Valeriana*. The Author is of the latter Opinion, urging, That as the Legion, called by *Dio Claudio*, is by *Tacitus*, more than once, term'd *Claudiana Legio*; so this Legion, term'd by *Dio Ovaledio*, ought, in his Opinion, to be in Latin rendred *Legio Valeriana*: Especially, if we consider, That the word *Legio* affects to be joined with an Adjective ending in *ana*; of which He produces almost twenty Examples, and can produce many more: On the other hand, it does not appear to him, That *Legio* is in any good Author joyned with the word *Valeria*. He farther adds, That tho' it be undoubt-edly true, there was a Legion call'd *Valens Victrix*, (for this is evident from an Inscription, reported by *Lipsius*, and others) yet there is no proof, That any Legion, ha-ving that Name, was ever in *Britain*. He enquires, how this Legion came to be call'd *Valeriana*, and how *Vi-trix*: And says, there is a longer Account of this Le-gion, than perhaps of any other, viz. up to 374 Years.

Sect. V. STIPENDIORUM. IX.

The yearly *Stipends* are here placed to express the Years of Service, and shew, That *J. V.* served nine Years in the Army.

Sect. VI. ANNOR. XXXIX.

This double N is very remarkable; rarely, if at all, to be met with in any other *Inscription*. The last Line, in the Ligature, is raised higher than ordinary, perhaps to include, for softness of Pronounciation, an I; and then the Word is to be read *Anniorum*. There are many Instances of this kind to be met with, in ancient MSS and *Inscriptions*. *Julius Vitalis* enter'd into the Service in the Twentieth Year of his Age; though the *Romans* generally listed at Seventeen, and sometimes earlier. Coyns are mentioned, as proving Cifres to be of use among the *Romans*.

Sect. VII. NATIONE.

The first Vowel here, without a Line transverse, is according to Mr. Cambden's Rule, a good Argument to prove, this *Inscription* not to be more ancient than Severus's Age: There being, as that Learned Antiquary affirms, no such Form of this Letter, in this Island, before that time.

Sect. VIII. BELGA.

The *Belgæ* came out of *Germany*, and settled in *Gaul*; from whence a part of them invaded *Britain*, about the Time of *Diviaticus*. They landed in, or near the Bay of *Clausentum* (*old South-hampton*) and possest the Sea-Coast of *Hampshire*, as it is now call'd. Thence they march'd to *Venta* (*Winchester*) and gave it the Name of *Venta Belgarum*, and extended their Conquests farther, into the Countreys now known by the Names of *Wilshire* and *Somerset*.

The

The *Cangi* could not inhabit any part of this *Belgium*, (as some learned Men have formerly affirmed, and others of late undertaken to prove;) for the Leaden Pigs, in number twenty, found some time since in *Cheshire*, each having the following Inscription,

IMP. DOMIT. AVG. GER. DE. CEANG.

That is,

Imperator Domitianus Augustus Germanicus de Ceangis,
five *Cangi*,

These *Laminae Plumbae* do (I say) evidently prove the Victory of the *Cangi* to have been near the River *Deva*, where in all likelihood they were seated.

Tis farther manifest from *Ptolemy*, they could not, at least in his time, and according to his Geography, inhabit any part of *Belgium*, and this by an undenial Argument. The Maritime *Belgians* near the *Isle of Wight*, were overcome by *Vespasian*; whose Camp, now to be seen near *Chichester*, was capable of three Legions, that is, Thirty six thousand Men.

Vitalis a Citizen of *Rome*, by virtue of *Caracalla's* Constitution, if no other way. The *Britains* were sometimes call'd *Romans*. *Vespasian* never overcame the *Dunnmonij*.

Sect. VIII. EX. COLEGIO. FABRICE.

The single **L** is according to the Custom of the *Romans*, which held as long as their Language.

C for **G** was also usual with Them.

The *Fabrica Sacra*, or Office for making Arms of the greater sort, for the Souldiery, is mention'd by *Paternus*; who lived under the *Antonines*. *Trajan* seems, first, to have built this sort of Office; whose Oeconomy is here set forth; but, in *Britain*, *Adrian*, A. D. CXXI. Why we ought to read *Fabricensum*. The Bath-Fabric had Ore and Fuel from the *Silures*, (*Glocestershire* and *Monmouthshire*) where *Adrian* sunk an Iron-work. Of the Officer in the Army called *Armorum Custos*. The *Armamentarium* at the Mouth of the old *Rhine*, very ancient: Its Communication, in latter Times, with our *Fabrica*. Not unlikely, but that the Legionary *Fabricenses* were incorporated into the *Bath-College*. *Julius Vitalis* recommended Himself to the College, perhaps by his Humanity, Probity, and Urbanity. The Luxury of this XXth Legion, and of the *Fabricenses* near *Bath*, manifest from their many Mosaic Pavements: Of which one is here described. *Vitalis* seems to have been *Prefectus Fabricensum*, from the Honour done Him, by the whole College, in his Funeral and Monument.

Sect. X. E L A T U S.

The true Signification of this Word, in opposition to *Sipontinus*. *Collegium*, in the purest *Latin Authors*, never signifies a Place.

Sect. XI. H S E.

The Rise of *Notes*, *Singule*, or *Sigle*. No Points in this Note, being of itself easily understood. The common way of Deciphering not difficult; and may be perform'd by one, who understands not the Language of the Writing. A way of writing proposed, so occult, as not to be discovered. No *Digamma Heliolum* in any of the *British Inscriptions*. Phrases, as well as Words, have

have their Rise and Fall. This of [Hic situs est] one of the most ancient.

The *Military Ways*, as now seen, are some of the most Magnificent Remains of the *Roman Greatness*; begun near *Bath*, under *Claudius*. The *Roman Army* in *Britain* under *Nero* 70000: which, after the Defeat of *Boadicia*, was in all likelihood employ'd in public Works, as *Ways*, &c. At *Bath* four *Military Ways* meet; in this *Quadrivium*, about a Mile out of the Town, near the *London-Road*, was a famous Burying-Place; in which *Julius Vitalis*, and several others, were buried. Burying-Places most proper remote from Cities, and therefore recommended to more frequent use, after the Example of most wise Nations.

In the last Chapter the Author treats of the Orthography, Ornaments, and other Accidents of this *Inscription*, setting forth, in particular, That as *Inscriptions* best of all teach Orthography, so they are often most faulty in this respect. Points at first were used to distinguish Words. In this *Inscription*, they are, where most perfect, Triangular, and placed near the middle of the preceding Letter. The *Roman V* was pronouned like our *W*; consequently *Julius Vitalis*. This Vowel was sometimes pointed beneath, sometimes Arch'd, as appears from MSS of a thousand Years age, now to be seen in the *Bodleian Library*: contrary to the Opinion of *Cellarius*; who affirms, That the round bottom'd *U*, *U*, is not above a hundred Years standing. This last Figure of this Letter taken from the *Runer*, as the other, *V*, was from the Greek *v*. Of the mixing small with great Letters; and mixing, in the same Writing, Letters of divers Alphabets. Lithotomists careless in dividing Syllables. Knowledge of the Antients best preserved by *Inscriptions*; which yet labour under great defects. The Use of this *Inscription*.

The A. of this *Commentary* can't but take Notice, That it is not represented aright by the Editor of the *Bibliotheque choisie*, Tom. XXV. *primiere partie*. For pagg. 225 and 6, He says, [Belges, qui des Provinces septentriонаles du Continent des Genles s'étoient transportez en Angleterre, autour de Bath & Wells] Whereas the *Commentary* affirms no such thing, and in all likelihood *Wells*, and perhaps *Bath* too, is much later than the settling of the *Belge* in *Britain*. In the 2d place, He observes, That whereas the *Bibliotheque* affirms of the *Bath Fabric* [*ce que l'on avoit ignoré jusqu'à présent*] the *Commentary* quite otherwise says, [*Fabricam Aquis, quod orbi literato jam din latuit, fuisse Calidis.*] pag. 189. Lastly, speaking of the round bottom'd U, invented (as *Cellarius* affirms) about a hundred Years ago, This, says the *Bibliotheque*, is true, as to *Inscriptions* [*Celà est vrai à l'égard des Inscriptions*] On the other hand, I take leave to affirm, *quod hujus contrarium est verissimum*: There being now to be seen in *Cornwall* an old *Inscription* with a round U.